

FOR RELEASE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

NEGRO NATIONAL & AMERICAN LEAGUE

November 9, 1945

C O P Y

Mr. Albert B. Chandler
Carew Tower Building
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Mr. Chandler:

At a joint meeting of the Negro National and American Baseball Leagues it was decided to write you concerning a situation which has arisen, which vitally affects the future of Negro Organized Baseball.

A player of the Negro American League was signed to a contract to play baseball for Montreal of the International League, a farm of the Brooklyn National League Club.

During the past few weeks, players of Organized Negro Baseball have been approached by men who claimed they are connected with the Brooklyn National League Baseball Club, and asked to go to the Brooklyn Club's office at Brooklyn, New York.

One player, John Wright, a pitcher for the Homestead Grays in 1941-2-3 and in the armed forces in 1944-5. These players have been told of the possibility of their entrance into white organized baseball if they either sign a contract to play with a farm team of Brooklyn or play with a Negro team called the Brooklyn Brown Dodgers, a team which is in no manner connected with Negro Organized Baseball.

The Negro National & American Leagues have constitutions, keep minutes of their meetings and have player contracts just the same as any baseball league of white organized baseball.

Our contract was tested before Common Pleas Court Judge Marshall of Alleghany County, Pennsylvania, in 1941 in a case: Homestead Grays vs Josh Gibson, a catcher, who had jumped his contract to play baseball in Mexico. The Homestead Grays were awarded a verdict of \$10,000 damages. The contract now in use is almost an exact duplicate of the white National League Contract.

We are not protesting the signing of Negro Players by white organized baseball. We are glad to see our players get the opportunity to play in white Organized Baseball. We are protesting the way it is done.

We feel that the clubs of Organized Negro Baseball who have gone to so much expense to develop players and establish teams and leagues should be approached, and deals made between clubs involved, even though Negro Organized Baseball is not a part of White Organized Baseball. That is the only way in which we can be assured that Negro Organized Baseball can continue to operate.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Dr. J.B. Martin, Pres. Negro A.L.

Thos. T. Wilson, Pres. Negro Nat'l

C. W. Posey, Secretary